

Message Text

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S E C R E T BONN 13039

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: XGDS

TAGS: CY

SUBJECT: CYPRUS: GENSCHER BRIEFING

REF: STATE 179815

1. I MET FRIDAY EVENING WITH FOREIGN MINISTER GENSCHER, WHO HAD EARLIER INTERRUPTED HIS VACATION IN BAVARIA TO RETURN TEMPORARILY TO BONN, AND BRIEFED HIM ON CYPRUS DEVELOPMENTS PER REFTEL. STATE SECRETARY GEHLHOFF WAS ALSO PRESENT.

2. GENSCHER EXPRESSED HIS APPRECIATION FOR THE BRIEFING. HE SAID HE WAS AWARE THAT CURRENT PRESS REPORTS ALLEGING LACK OF US INITIATIVE TO DEAL WITH THE CYPRUS CRISIS WERE INACCURATE. GERMAN CONCERNS ABOUT GREECE WERE TWOFOLD: FIRST, THE NEED TO KEEP GREECE FIRMLY IN NATO; SECOND, THE INTERNAL SITUATION. ON THE LATTER POINT, IT WOULD BE MOST UNFORTUNATE IF THE PROGRESS TOWARD DEMOCRATIZATION BROUGHT ABOUT BY KARAMANLIS' RETURN WERE TO SUFFER A REVERSE. A RETURN TO POWER OF THE MILITARY, FOR EXAMPLE, MIGHT BE FOLLOWED BY A SHARP DRIFT TO THE LEFT. KARAMANLIS HAD ACTED WITH COURAGE AND SHOWN A HIGH DEGREE OF STATESMANSHIP, BUT HE WAS WALKING ON THIN ICE. ONE COULD IMAGINE THE PROBLEM WE WOULD HAVE IF THERE WERE A HOTHEAD IN CONTROL IN ATHENS.

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3. GENSCHER SAID HE HAD TALKED EARLIER IN THE DAY WITH FRENCH FOREIGN MINISTER SAUVAGNARGUES BY PHONE. HE HAD TOLD SAUVAGNARGUES THAT THE FRG AND FRANCE TOGETHER, WHICH HAD TRADITIONALLY GOOD TIES WITH BOTH GREECE AND TURKEY, AND HAD NOT EXPENDED ANY POLITICAL CAPITAL IN THE PRESENT CRISIS, SHOULD BE READY TO EXERCISE THEIR INFLUENCE WITH BOTH PARTIES IN ORDER TO KEEP GREECE IN THE ALLIANCE AND SUPPORT KARAMANLIS AND OTHERS LIKE HIM WHO FAVORED A SANE POLICY. GENSCHER SAID HE WANTED TO STRESS TO US TOO THAT GERMANY WAS WILLING TO HELP IN ANY WAY IT COULD.

4. GEHLHOFF SAID HE HAD URGED MODERATION ON THE TURKISH AMBASSADOR IN A MEETING EARLIER ON FRIDAY, STRESSING GERMAN CONCERNS FOR THE SOUTH EAST FLANK OF NATO.

5. THERE WAS SOME DISCUSSION OF THE GREEK WITHDRAWAL FROM NATO MILITARY COMMAND. GEHLHOFF NOTED A GREEK DEFENSE MINISTRY STATEMENT TO THE EFFECT THAT THE GREEK DECISION TO WITHDRAW WAS IRREVOCABLE INsofar AS TURKEY FAILED TO ACT RESPONSIBLY. GENSCHER THOUGHT THIS WAS A SIGNAL TO NATO WHICH SUGGESTED THE GREEK DECISION WAS SUBJECT TO REVIEW. IN THIS CONNECTION, THE GERMANS ALSO THOUGHT IT INTERESTING THAT THE WITHDRAWAL OF GREEK OFFICERS FROM NATO HEADQUARTERS, ORIGINALLY SUPPOSED TO BE CARRIED OUT WITHIN 24 HOURS, HAD BEEN EXTENDED OVER A TWO WEEK PERIOD--PERHAPS ANOTHER SIGNAL OF GREEK WILLINGNESS TO RECONSIDER. IT WOULD BE IMPORTANT TO TAKE ADVANTAGE OF SUCH INDICATIONS IN THE INTEREST OF THE ALLIANCE AS A WHOLE.
HILLENBRAND

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